


**UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**





# **Face-to-Face Examiner Interviews**

## ***A Demonstration of USPTO Tools***

Timothy Callahan

Director, Technology Center 2400

**Leading in Quality Excellence – Every Interaction Counts**



# Overview

- Interview Survey Results
- WebEx Interviews
- Authorization Policy
- Interview Resources
  - Interview Specialist
  - Public Interview Rooms
  - Website & Email box



# Interview Surveys

- Surveys on interviews for both Examiners and Applicants were conducted in 2014
- Learn more about interview practice during prosecution
- Identify training opportunities



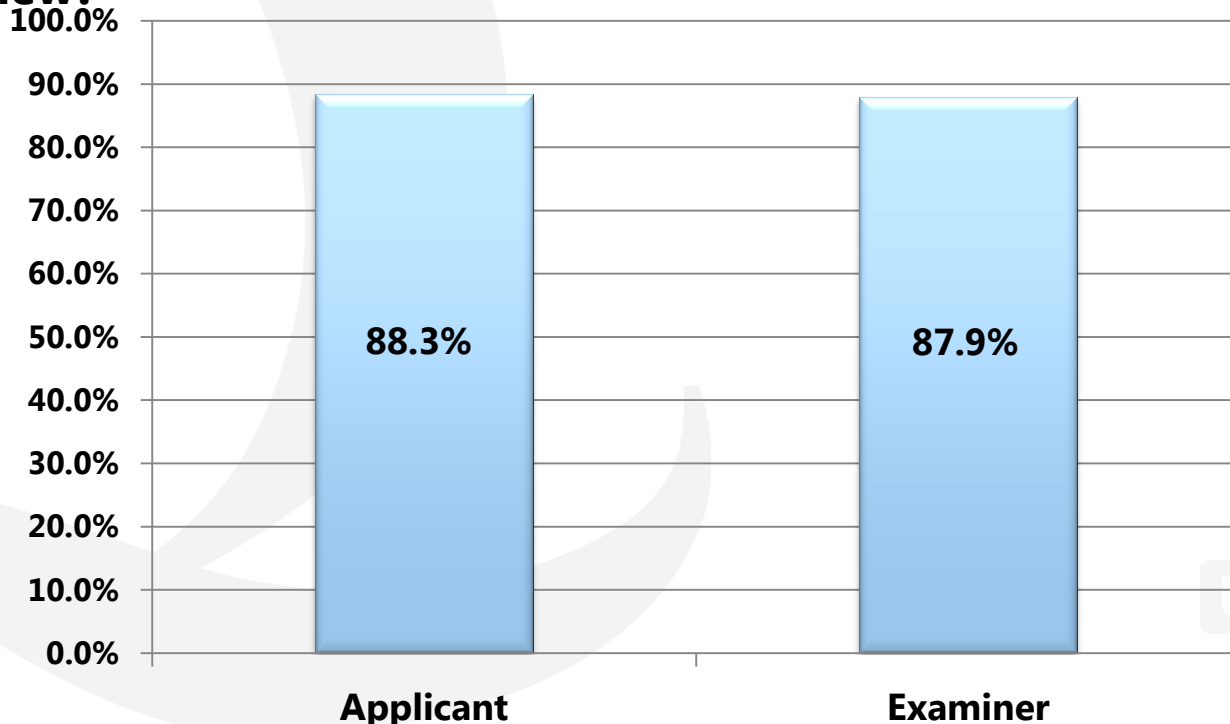
# Interview Survey Results

- For advancing prosecution, Applicants were very positive.



# Interview Survey Results

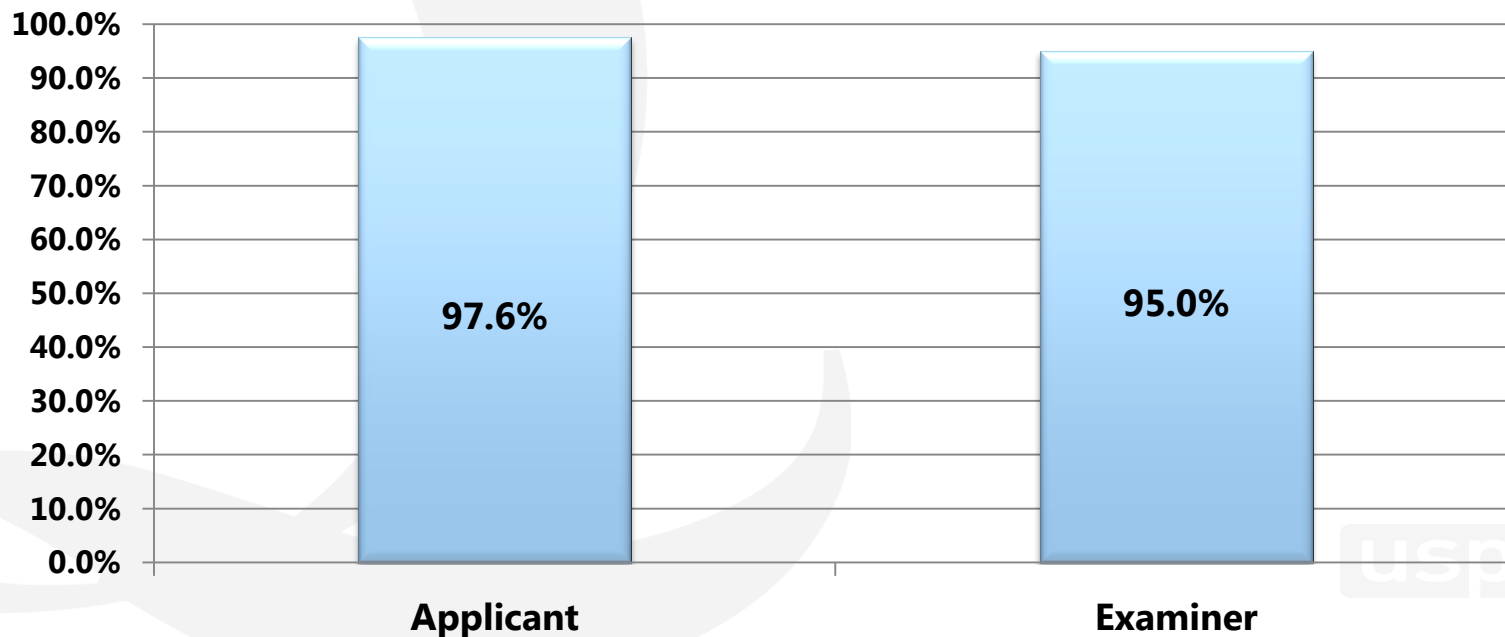
**How often do you get an explanation of the rejection during an interview?**



uspto

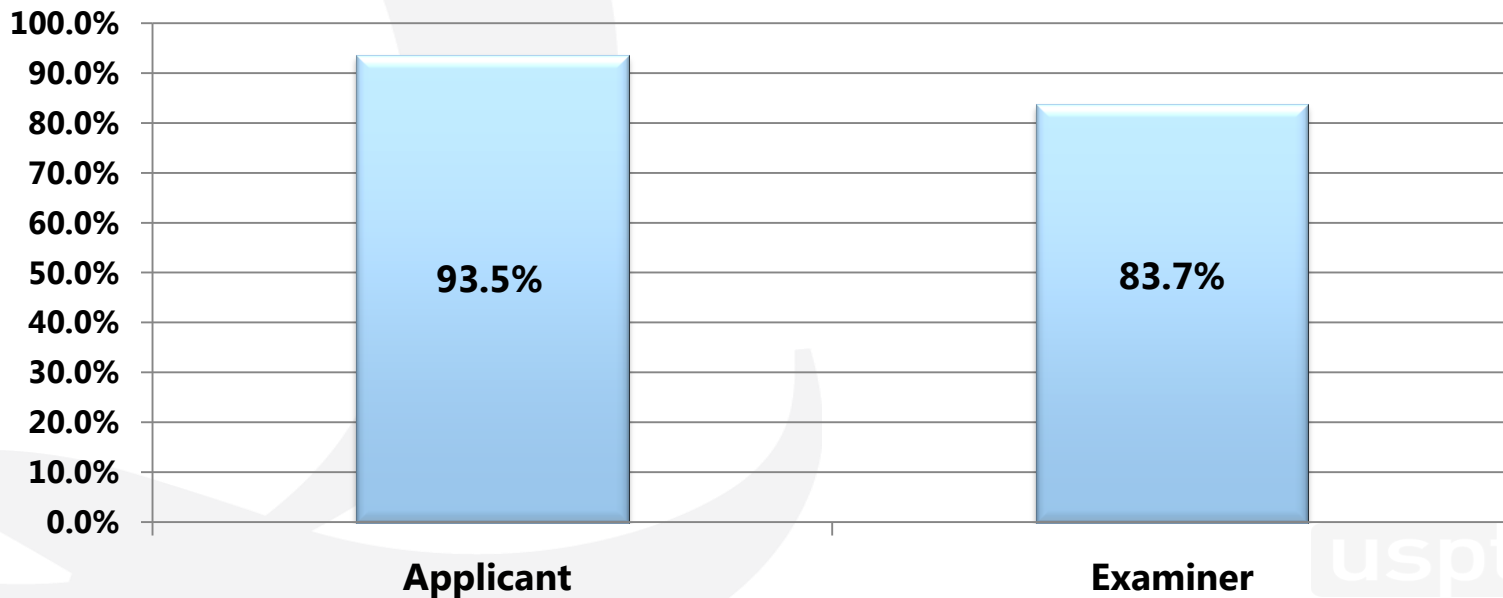
# Interview Survey Results

**How often do clarification or better understanding of positions occur during an interview?**



# Interview Survey Results

**How often does a better understanding of the claimed invention occur during an interview?**

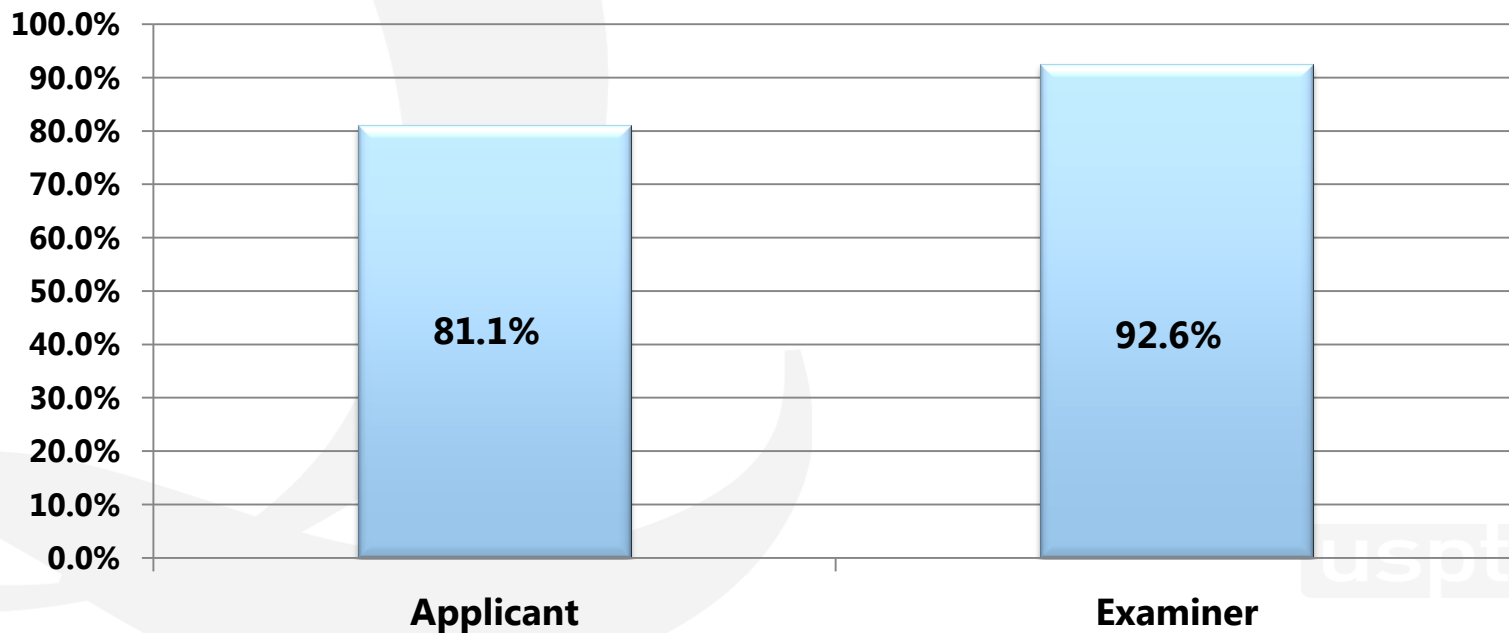


uspto



# Interview Survey Results

**How often reaching an agreement or advancing prosecution occur during an interview?**

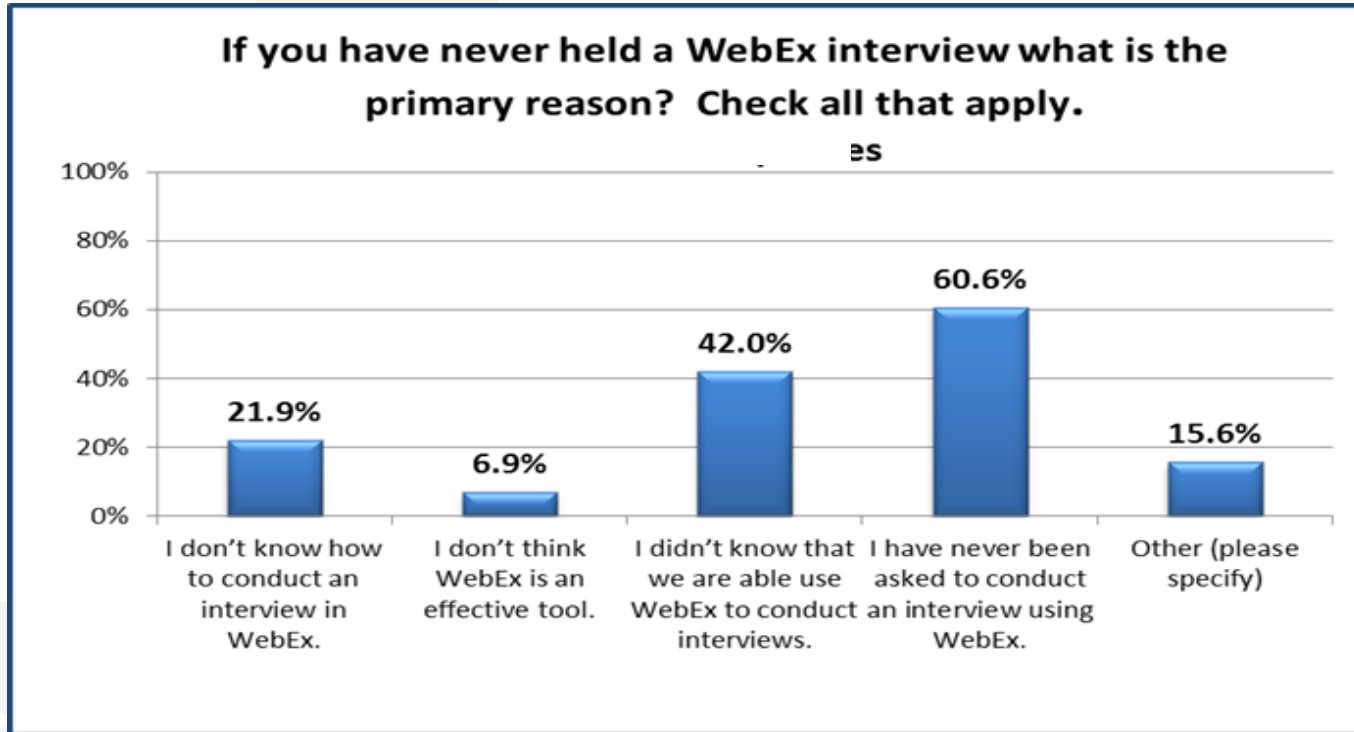


# Interview Survey Summary

- Most interviews are initiated by Applicants according to both surveys
- 99% of Applicants indicated that request for interviews are usually granted.



# Training Opportunities





# WebEx Demo

Leading in Quality Excellence – Every Interaction Counts



# WebEx Basics

- You need a computer and a high-speed Internet connection is recommended.
- WebEx is a web-based service, so you can use it from any computer (Windows, Mac, Linux, or Solaris).
- No software needs to be downloaded or purchased.
- A telephone will be used to join the audio component of the meeting while a video camera may be used as part of the visual component.



# Click Link for Examiner

Open the email containing the WebEx online meeting invitation and click on the link to join the visual component of the online meeting.

-----  
To join the online meeting (Now from mobile devices!)  
-----

1. Click the following link: [Join the meeting](#)
2. If requested, enter your name and email address.
3. If a password is required, enter the meeting password:
4. Click "Join".





# Verbal Authorization for Video Conferencing

## Change to Internet Usage Policy to Permit Oral Authorization for Video Conferencing Tools

- Policy has been updated to make it easier for Applicants to authorize the use of video conferencing tools to conduct examiner interviews.
- MPEP § 502.03 now allows a verbal request to authorize a WebEx interview, instead of submitting a written request.
- The verbal authorization is limited to the video conference interview and does not extend to other communications regarding the application.







# Resources & Assistance

Leading in Quality Excellence – Every Interaction Counts

# Interview Specialist

- Subject matter expert on interview practice and policy in each Technology Center
- To assist Examiners and Applicants in facilitating effective interviews
- The list of TC Specialists can be found here:  
<http://www.uspto.gov/patent/laws-and-regulations/interview-practice/interview-specialist>



# WebEx Training & Assistance

- Applicants who are interested in more detailed WebEx training may request a **one-on-one** WebEx training session with an interview specialist.
- Please email your request to [ExaminerInterviewPractice@USPTO.gov](mailto:ExaminerInterviewPractice@USPTO.gov)
  - Include preferred dates and times
  - Please give at least one week notice



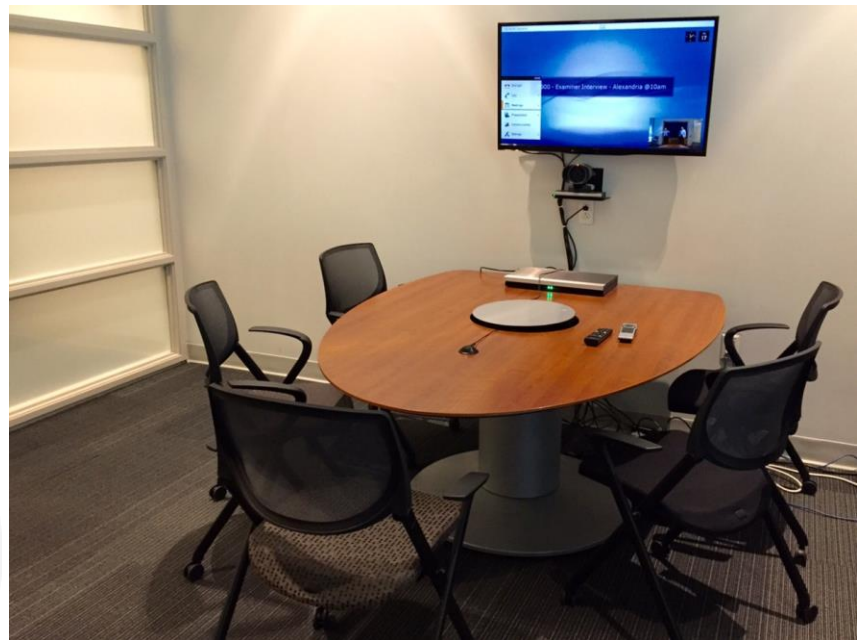
# Public Interview Rooms

- A Public Interview Room is a video conference room on each USPTO campus designated for Applicants to use to connect and collaborate with examiners that are working remotely or at a different USPTO campus
- Currently in Alexandria, Detroit & Denver
- Coming soon to San Jose & Dallas



# Public Interview Rooms

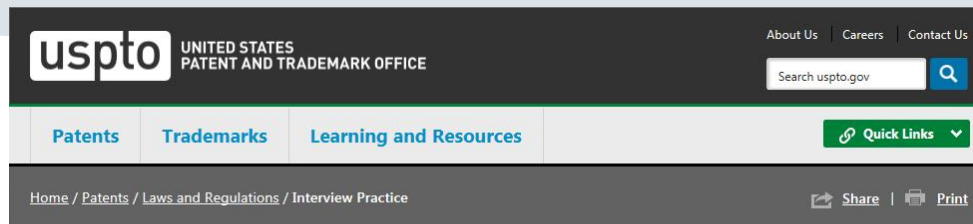
- Must be reserved by Examiner at least two business days prior to interview.
- Written or verbal authorization to communicate electronically is required prior to reserving a public interview room (see MPEP § [502.03](#) and [713.01](#), and 80 Fed. Reg. 23787, April 2015).



# Website

- USPTO.GOV
  - Policies
  - Training
  - FAQs
  - Contacts
- Comments & Questions

[ExaminerInterviewPractice@USPTO.gov](mailto:ExaminerInterviewPractice@USPTO.gov)



Helpful 0

← Laws and Regulations

America Invents Act (AIA)

American Inventors  
Protection Act of 1999

Comments from the Public

**Interview Practice**

Examination Policy

Patent Related Notices

Patent Term Extension

Power of Attorney and  
Assignment

Revised Amendment Practice  
37 CFR

## Interview Practice



**Interview Practice** provides you with free access to video conferencing with USPTO examiners. To join, you need a computer, high speed internet connection, a webcam and a telephone. If you cannot join from home or your office, USPTO offers dedicated meeting rooms at each of its major campuses (Alexandria, Va.; Detroit, Mich.; and Denver, Colo.).

### Survey



We have created a brief survey to learn more about applicant experiences with interview practices during prosecution. Responses will help us identify the best practices and training needs for USPTO.

[Take the survey](#).

### Federal Register Notice

USPTO is updating its Internet usage policy by modifying the authorization requirements to now permit oral authorization for video conferencing tools, such as WebEx, to be provided by the patent applicant/ practitioner

# QUESTIONS?

## Face-to-Face Examiner Interviews *A Demonstration of USPTO Tools*

Timothy Callahan  
Director, Technology Center 2400

